

# Survey Study of the Chainbreaker 20 H Red

**KnihTisk**

Series 4: Vol. 1  
The Chainbreaker



by  
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Souhrnná studie  
osvobozená republika 20h červená

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**Společnosti sběratelů československých knihtiskových známek**  
by Mark Wilson

**KNHTISK**

Winchester, Virginia  
2006

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Series 4: The Chainbreaker. Vol. 1: 20h Red.

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*The Translator*

**Cover Illustration:** Right margin block of four

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### Plates

Archived in the Postal Museum are prints from two four-plate printing matrices. They always consisted of two OR<sup>1</sup> 20h plates and two plates of another OR denomination. In the first instance, it was the OR 50h red; in the second, the OR 30h. The *Monografie* Vol. 2 describes the four plates as having the following gaps in the control number's decimal line under position 91:

2.—            2.--            2.---            2.----

A careful study of 100-stamp panes and other material indicates that the unbroken decimal line 2.— never existed; for Plate I, invariably the line is broken, perhaps only slightly or obscured by ink, but it may be distinguished from Plate II by the latter's somewhat broader gap. From this we may ascertain that as these two plates were used to make stamps, the decimal line thinned out. While this could have been explained by the wearing out of plates during a later phase of printing because typically a plate printed about 30 million stamps, for the OR issue only 15 million of better quality were printed with a single plate.

### Quantities Released

Denomination	Amount	Date Printed	Date Withdrawn
20	58,370,000	June 22 1920	April 30 1921
20/50	2,700,000	September 24 1927	August 15 1928
Total	61, 070,000		

### Flaws in the Negatives

were located and we confirmed flaws in the negative for 16 plate positions for which further identifying marks have been located.

### Postal Use

From a philatelic point of view, the most difficult use to find are single-stamp letters franked for the third tariff period, that is, from June 22 1920 until July 31 1920.

### Pricing

See *The Chainbreaker: Specialized Handbook for Collectors of Stamps, Covers, and Postal Stationery* by J. Chvalovský and J. Kašpar.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>OR – Osvobozená republika, The Liberated Republic, affectionately known as The Chainbreaker – tr.

<sup>2</sup>English language version published by Knihtisk in 2006 – tr.

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### **Research Materials**

In support of this study, I had at hand three 100-stamp panes and a xeroxed copy of a black print pane from the Postal Museum, all from Plate I. For Plate II there were two 100-stamp panes and a xerox of a black-print pane. In addition, there were a great many blocks and strips of four as well as 12,000 individual stamps. The material included sheets from various printing periods. Thus, the worn plates impacted the quality of some stamps. Plates that were used to print large quantities of stamps and were cleaned many times produced copies that were faded. I only note flaws in this study which I saw at least ten, or sometimes fifteen, times. At that level, there were a number of flaws that were not found on every block or sheet.